

REMARKS

Claims 1-28 have been cancelled and new claims 29-57 have been added. Please charge a fee of \$18.00 for one additional dependent claim over the claims already paid for.

The new claims have been formulated and drafted to overcome the objections regarding section 112.

New claim 29, written in Jepson form to acknowledge the state of the art, has been formulated to define the inventive concept to particularly point out and distinctly claim the invention of the application. More particularly, the structure of the safety device is such that **NO** portion of it extends below the steering column. This essential improvement is found in claim 29 in the portion of the claim wherein the improvement is recited, to wit:

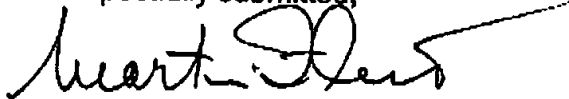
- "a) the height adjustment contains a swiveling mechanism, which engages with the engagement mechanism of the length adjustment,
- b) the safety device is so constructed and arranged that the length adjustment and the height adjustment in all positions of the steering column are above the lowest point of the horizontal profile of the steering column,
- c) whereby the space through and above the steering wheel is unobstructed to view instruments on dashboard and space below the steering column is unobstructed to give greater protection to legs and knees of a driver in the event of an accident."

The above quoted claimed limitations of new claim 29 are totally absent from the prior art, and are completely unobvious from the prior art. In Hoblingre et al USP 5,477,744, the structure of the adjustment device, as shown in Figures 2, 4, 5, 6 and 8, contains structure that extends below the steering column 7 and therefore, would be a hazard in the event of an accident and a danger to the driver's legs and knees. This is precisely the situation that is avoided by the present invention as claimed and described in the specification in great detail. Accordingly, the new claims are allowable.

In light of the foregoing remarks, this application should be in condition for allowance, and early passage of this case to issue is respectfully requested. If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

It is respectfully requested that, if necessary to effect any additional timely response, this paper be considered as a Petition for an Extension of Time, time sufficient, to effect a timely response, and shortages in this or other fees, be charged, or any overpayment in fees be credited, to the Deposit Account of the undersigned, Account No. 500601 (Docket no. 7100-X03-024).

Respectfully submitted,



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